

never exceeded three to six inches in length. Strange to say, however, that during the past four years these little fish have become so numerous throughout the length of Lake Ontario that millions can be taken in one haul of a seine almost anywhere along the shore of Lake Ontario during the month of June. The whole shore for a long distance out, during this time, becomes so dense with these little fish that people dip them out with their hats,—rather a novel method, but it is a fact, and given for illustration of their immense numbers: vast quantities of them die along the shore. In a few days, sometimes a fortnight, they all disappear, and we see nothing of them again till the following year, excepting an odd one that may be taken at times. They invariably run from two to six inches, seldom larger. They are not prized for food, being seldom eaten, and are not marketable. They have been called here the “Moon Eye”, as they resemble the fish spoken of by me as having been taken in the deep waters, which have always been known by that name. Again, in 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, and this year, these little fish have been alike abounding in myriads all along the north shore of Ontario. Since that time, the trout and other predaceous fishes have become very scarce in the lake, and these “Moon Eyes” have consequently wonderfully increased in numbers, to such an extent as to spread themselves in the immense number spoken of all along the shore of the lake.

The specimen sent may not be one of these “Moon Eyes”, but the resemblance is very great.\*

Professor BAIRD,

*Commissioner of Fisheries, &c., Washington, D. C.*

NEWCASTLE, November 23, 1877.

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**THE OCCURRENCE OF THE CANADA PORCUPINE IN WEST VIRGINIA.**

**By G. BROWN GOODE.**

The National Museum has obtained from Mr. H. D. Renninger, of Washington, a living specimen of the Canada porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatus* (Linn.) F. Cuv.—var *dorsatus*), captured by him November 13, 1878, near Cranberry Summit, Preston County, West Virginia. This locality is in or near lat.  $39\frac{1}{2}$  N., and this is believed to be the most southern occurrence of the species. The inhabitants of Cranberry have never before known of the occurrence of porcupines in that region.

DeKay stated† that the species ranged south to the northern parts of Virginia and Kentucky. Mr. Allen believes that his statement was founded on a remark of Catesby. Audubon and Bachman write: ‡ “It

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\*The fish received from Mr. Wilmot is the Western Gizzard Shad, *Dorosoma cepedianum heterurum*, (Raf.) Jordan.

†Nat. Hist. N. Y. 1842, 1, p. 79.

‡Quadrupeds of N. America, 1, 1846, p. 286.

does not exist in the southern parts of New York or Pennsylvania. DeKay states that it is found in the northern parts of Virginia and Kentucky. We, however, sought for it without success in the mountains of Virginia, and could never hear of its existence in Kentucky."

Professor Baird states\* that the species is found as far south as Northern Pennsylvania in some localities, in which State it is not rare even now.

Mr. J. A. Allen, the most recent writer on the porcupines, remarks,† that Professor Shaler had failed to hear of the species in Kentucky and Virginia. He was informed by Dr. J. M. Wheaton that a few porcupines still survive in Clark, Champaign, and Ross Counties, Ohio, and that it was common ten years since in Putnam County; and by Mr. E. W. Nelson that the species was formerly rather common, though never abundant, in all of the wooded region north of the Ohio River, but that it is not now found (west of Ohio) south of the forests of Northern Wisconsin and Northern Michigan.

DECEMBER 12, 1878.

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**CATALOGUE OF THE BIRDS OF GRENADA, FROM A COLLECTION MADE BY MR. FRED. A. OBER FOR THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, INCLUDING OTHERS SEEN BY HIM, BUT NOT OBTAINED.**

**By GEORGE N. LAWRENCE.**

In my Catalogue of the Birds of St. Vincent, I stated that Mr. Ober expected to leave that island for Grenada on the 29th of February. He must have left about that time, as some of his notes from Grenada are dated early in March. His collection from there was received at the Smithsonian Institution on the 22d of May, and sent to me a few days after. It consists of but 66 specimens.

In the following communication from Mr. Ober, he gives the geographical position of the island, with other matters of interest.

Under most of the species found there, are his notes of their habits, etc.

His communications are marked with inverted commas.

"Grenada, the southernmost of the volcanic islands, lies just north of the 12th degree of latitude north of the equator, that parallel just touching its southern point.

"It is about  $18\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length, from N. N. E. to S. S. W., and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles in breadth.

"From Kingston, the principal town in St. Vincent, to St. Georges, that of Grenada, the distance is 75 miles; from the southern end of St. Vincent to the northern point of Grenada the distance is 60 miles; the intervening space being occupied by the Grenadines.

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\* Mammals of North America, 1859, p. 568.

† Monographs of North American Rodentia, by Elliott Coues and Joel Asaph Allen, 1877, p. 393.